

Exhibit O-2: Final EA Appendix M (Public
Comments Received), Part 1 of 3

Jon Travis
Dandridge County
Farm Services Agency
80 A South Broad St.
Lexington, TN 38351

Dear Mr. Travis,

I am writing this letter in regards to the possible construction and operation of the sixteen chicken barns on Judge McCulough Road, in Cedar Grove, TN.

When I heard the news, I was saddened because I thought of many things that would change if this came to pass. I thought of the bad smells we would have to tolerate. The fresh air we breathe now, would be a thing of the past. The out door church gatherings such as homecomings, picnics, barbeques would no longer be enjoyed. Sitting on our porches

Mr. Travis
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Before any decisions are made by FSA, I would ask for thorough consideration of the each of the above issues, and for the findings of that consideration to be laid out in a comprehensive manner with relevant and verifiable information to support same.

In closing, I know and understand that this project is far too massive for a letter of concern to sway a decision; I also understand that approximately 1.5 million dollars has been allocated to the purchase of property alone to make this endeavor possible. However, I do urge you and your group to consider the residents in all your decisions. The Rock Springs area encompasses more minority landownership per acre than any other area in Henderson and possibly many other surrounding counties. The area has four black churches; one Amish church, many active businesses and this embodies the future inheritance for many minority children. It's a well-known fact that the residents of Henderson County do not welcome Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. We in Henderson County love farming but this operation doesn't function like a farm. This is another way for large industries to push its agendas on small communities. Consider this as a gate way into Henderson County, today it's our backyard but tomorrow it could be yours. Consider that a large investor could purchase a tract of property next to you with the right to farm. We in Henderson County are concerned about the odors, lake pollution, air pollution, property devaluation, traffic, and the overall standard of living. I ask you to make this decision personal, take away the financial gains, and add the humanity, and then ask what it was me. The community is saying no but the industry is saying Yes.....No always means No...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Page". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Cindy" on the top line and "Page" on the bottom line, slightly overlapping.

Jon Travis
Henderson County Farm Services Agency
Farm Loan Officer
80-A South Broad Street
Lexington, TN 38351
Jon.travis@usda.gov

November 17, 2021

Re: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations located at Map 12 Parcel 13.00 and Map 12 Parcel 13.01 -
Cedar Grove, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Travis:

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the presence of pest and rodents, which has been documented to increase significantly around CAFOs. The decrease in property values for the land surrounding the proposed operation which is a well-documented issue; and the unsuitable infrastructure that exists in the area, particularly the poorly maintained and narrow roads which would become victim to frequent weighty traffic servicing the poultry houses.

Another glaring omission is lack of reference to the proximity of Parker's Crossroads Battlefield to the subject site. Laying approximately four miles from the subject site is Henderson County's most prominent tourist attraction and part of the National Parks Service through affiliation. In addition to the Battlefield, is the active veterans' cemetery. Both deserve consideration in the placement of a major CAFO in the area.

Another concerning element lacking in the Draft is that of the socioeconomic status of the area. Cedar Grove and the surrounding areas comprise the largest concentration of black owned property in Henderson County and the majority of residents live at an income level lower than the county average. It is the duty of Federal agencies under Executive Order 12898 to identify and address "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations..." Yet, the Draft does not even mention the demographics of the area.

While the Cedar Grove community, indeed all of Henderson County, is an agricultural area, it has never been exposed to an undertaking like the one being proposed which will place well over half a million chickens in a single location with all their associated waste. CAFOs have existed across this nation for decades, but that does not make them safe for human health or the environment or establish them as boons to communities. In fact, research has shown the opposite to be true. CAFOs are destructive. So much so that The American Public Health Association has called for a moratorium on establishing new CAFOs and expanding existing ones on more than one occasion.

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Farm Loan Officer
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Tahnia Robertson

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Henderson County Farm Services Agency
Farm Loan Officer
80-A South Broad Street
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Jon.travis@usda.gov

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Sincerely,

*Telica Hart Robertson
4th Generation in this area!!!*

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Betty Williams

Jon Travis
Henderson County Farm Services Agency
Farm Loan Officer
80-A South Broad Street
Lexington, TN 38351
Jon.travis@usda.gov

November 17, 2021

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Mae Helen Hart

Jon Travis
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Farm Loan Officer
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cc: andy.lewis@usda.gov
lisa.lien@usda.gov

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Farm Loan Officer
80-A South Broad Street
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A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Roger Dauph". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Roger" on the top line and "Dauph" on the bottom line.

Jon Travis
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80-A South Broad Street
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Cristella Brown

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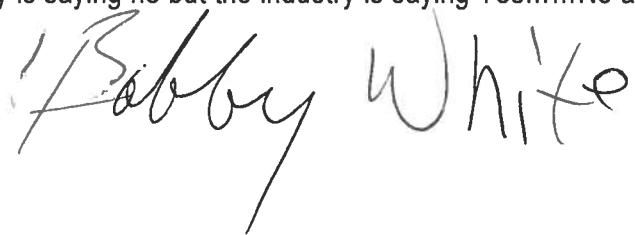
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cc: andy.lewis@usda.gov
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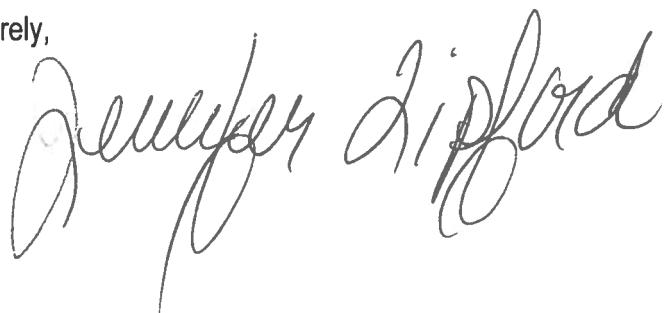
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November 16, 2021

Re: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations located at Map 12 Parcel 13.00 and Map 12 Parcel 13.01 -
Cedar Grove, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Travis:

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cc: andy.lewis@usda.gov
lisa.lien@usda.gov

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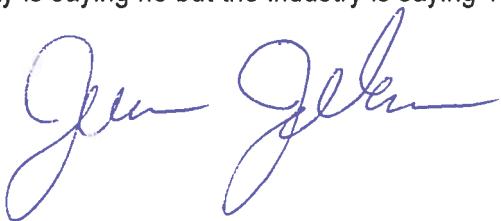
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glen Johnson".

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Or something as simple as a walk in the yard would no longer be the same.

Large chicken barns cause odors and emissions of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and poultry dust, containing bacteria, viruses, and toxins. These viruses, bacteria, and toxins cause serious diseases and infections. Along with these problems, water sources and air quality are polluted. All of these things are detrimental to our health. To what degree would the health of individuals be effected?

A major concern of mine is the health of my husband. He has been in this community all of his life, and has battled asthma ever since he was a little boy. The battle is still real. These chicken barns would only

make his problem worse, but
Who really cares?

Take a few minutes to think
about these questions, and be
honest. How would you feel
if this chicken farm was
moving in near you? Would
you be happy?

Please take the community
concerns in consideration!

Tracey McClerking

I understand that chicken
farms have to be somewhere.
I just would like to see
them in the middle of
no where. That way
communities would not be
affected.

TO Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my concern about a chicken facility in my area. I vote no. Find a place where there are no houses and put them there, no where people are living. Why is it that we can't get the things we want in our area that other people have in theirs that are looked on as a good thing? Things that we don't want are always in our area. Again I vote no.

Jinny McCleking

Farm Service Agency or To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the large CAFO construction project that has been proposed for Judge McCullough Road parcels 012. 013.00 And 012.013.01. First off, I know and understand that this project is far too massive for a letter of concern to sway a decision; I also understand that approximately 1.5 million dollars has been allocated to the purchase of property alone to make this endeavor possible. However, I do urge you and your group to consider the residents in all of your decisions. The Rock Springs area encompasses more minority landownership per acre than any other area in Henderson and possibly many other surrounding counties. The area has four black churches; one Amish church, many active businesses and this embodies the future inheritance for many minority children. It's a well known fact that the residents of Henderson County do not welcome Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. We in Henderson County love farming but this operation doesn't function like a farm. This is another way for large industries to push its agendas on small communities. Consider this as a gate way into Henderson County, today it's our backyard but tomorrow it could be yours. Consider that a large investor could purchase a tract of property next to you with the right to farm. We in Henderson County are concerned about the odors, lake pollution, air pollution, property devaluation, traffic and the overall standard of living. I ask you to make this decision personal, take away the financial gains, and add the humanity, and then ask yourself how I would feel if it was in my community. The Henderson county community is saying no but the industry is saying Yes.....No always means No...

Best Regards and God Bless,

Thomas Gorden,



November 13, 2021

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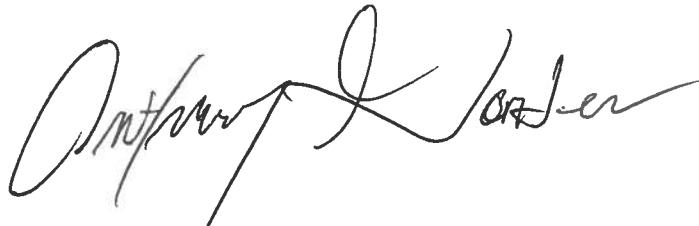
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Henderson County Farm Services Agency
Farm Loan Officer
80-A South Broad Street
Lexington, TN 38351
Jon.travis@usda.gov

November 17, 2021

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cc: andy.lewis@usda.gov
lisa.lien@usda.gov

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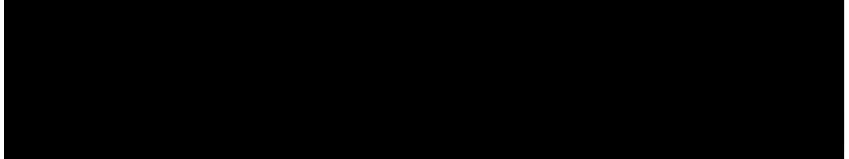
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November 17, 2021

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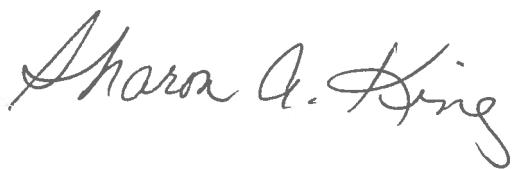
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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mae Rushing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mae" on the top line and "Rushing" on the bottom line.

cc: andy.lewis@usda.gov
lisa.lien@usda.gov

Jon Travis
Henderson County Farm Services Agency
Farm Loan Officer
80-A South Broad Street
Lexington, TN 38351
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The FSA is tasked with promoting agriculture and the Agency's representatives are undoubtedly passionate about that cause. Does a passion for agriculture, however, trump compassion for the men, women and children who face significant impacts to their health, quality of life and financial security simply because they live where they do?

Before any decisions are made by FSA, I would ask for thorough consideration of the each of the above issues, and for the findings of that consideration to be laid out in a comprehensive manner with relevant and verifiable information to support same.

In closing, I know and understand that this project is far too massive for a letter of concern to sway a decision; I also understand that approximately 1.5 million dollars has been allocated to the purchase of property alone to make this endeavor possible. However, I do urge you and your group to consider the residents in all your decisions. The Rock Springs area encompasses more minority landownership per acre than any other area in Henderson and possibly many other surrounding counties. The area has four black churches; one Amish church, many active businesses and this embodies the future inheritance for many minority children. It's a well-known fact that the residents of Henderson County do not welcome Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. We in Henderson County love farming but this operation doesn't function like a farm. This is another way for large industries to push its agendas on small communities. Consider this as a gate way into Henderson County, today it's our backyard but tomorrow it could be yours. Consider that a large investor could purchase a tract of property next to you with the right to farm. We in Henderson County are concerned about the odors, lake pollution, air pollution, property devaluation, traffic, and the overall standard of living. I ask you to make this decision personal, take away the financial gains, and add the humanity, and then ask what it was me. The community is saying no but the industry is saying Yes.....No always means No...

Sincerely, 

Jon Travis
Henderson County Farm Services Agency
Farm Loan Officer
80-A South Broad Street
Lexington, TN 38351
Jon.travis@usda.gov

November 17, 2021

Re: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations located at Map 12 Parcel 13.00 and Map 12 Parcel 13.01 -
Cedar Grove, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Travis:

This correspondence is being provided as an objection to the above referenced project which would consist of the construction and operation of a total of sixteen (16) poultry houses along with associated outbuildings at the address of 355 Judge McCullough Road in Cedar Grove, Tennessee.

The Draft Environmental Assessment provided by your office contains references to both the subject project and a site located in Madison County. It is impossible for the reader to know which parts of the Draft are relevant to the above referenced situation and which parts are not. Putting the confusing nature of the Draft aside, however, it still fails to provide any thorough assessment of the issues associated with introducing a CAFO of this size into the Cedar Grove area.

Decades of research have shown CAFOs to be detrimental to the environment, human health, quality of life, property value and local economics. The information provided in the Draft is sorely lacking in any credible support for the opinions offered therein.

The issue of water pollution is simply dismissed as being of no significant impact. Noting that the operation will not directly discharge to waters of the United States is a far cry from assuring that the operation will not result in water pollution. Several occurrences, including negligence, natural disasters and equipment malfunction, could easily create a hazardous situation and lead to substantial water pollution.

The discussion of air pollution does not even include the relevant issue of the dangerous gases emitted from the poultry houses. The employment of ventilation systems is done solely to ensure flock health by removing hazardous gases from the houses, so the flocks do not die. The entire ventilation system is used to move those gases from the houses out into the surrounding environment. How can this even vaguely constitute an argument against air pollution? The discussion further fails to address the dander and particles released into the environment by the houses. Both of which have been shown to have significant impact on human health.

As with water and air pollution, the issue of odor is likewise dismissed as insignificant. The existence of trees around the site (if indeed that information pertains to the subject site and not the Madison County site) and the direction of prevailing winds is not adequate enough to declare odor to not be a problem. Nor is any factual or even anecdotal evidence offered to support such a claim. In addition, the storage of thousands of tons of litter and composting of dead birds is merely glossed over.

The Draft finds that the operation will permanently increase the noise level in the area but dismisses this as not being significant because it would not occur at night. How this is an excuse of the acknowledged increase in noise level is unclear.

The Draft also fails to address:

the presence of pest and rodents, which has been documented to increase significantly around CAFOs. The decrease in property values for the land surrounding the proposed operation which is a well-documented issue; and the unsuitable infrastructure that exists in the area, particularly the poorly maintained and narrow roads which would become victim to frequent weighty traffic servicing the poultry houses.

Another glaring omission is lack of reference to the proximity of Parker's Crossroads Battlefield to the subject site. Laying approximately four miles from the subject site is Henderson County's most prominent tourist attraction and part of the National Parks Service through affiliation. In addition to the Battlefield, is the active veterans' cemetery. Both deserve consideration in the placement of a major CAFO in the area.

Another concerning element lacking in the Draft is that of the socioeconomic status of the area. Cedar Grove and the surrounding areas comprise the largest concentration of black owned property in Henderson County and the majority of residents live at an income level lower than the county average. It is the duty of Federal agencies under Executive Order 12898 to identify and address "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations..." Yet, the Draft does not even mention the demographics of the area.

While the Cedar Grove community, indeed all of Henderson County, is an agricultural area, it has never been exposed to an undertaking like the one being proposed which will place well over half a million chickens in a single location with all their associated waste. CAFOs have existed across this nation for decades, but that does not make them safe for human health or the environment or establish them as boons to communities. In fact, research has shown the opposite to be true. CAFOs are destructive. So much so that The American Public Health Association has called for a moratorium on establishing new CAFOs and expanding existing ones on more than one occasion.

Tennessee's right to farm laws seek to allow CAFOs the immunity necessary to operate despite the damage and dangers they produce. The Cedar Grove community, however, has been long established. The residents of the area have not chosen to live near a CAFO after the fact. They chose to establish their homes in a rural area with small farms where they live unimpeded by an industrial operation claiming to be "normal agriculture." A CAFO is attempting to invade an area already filled with people who have made their lives there. These people do not deserve to have their lives and their health effected by such an unwelcome addition especially as almost all of them do not possess the financial means to leave the area. As has been seen countless time across the country, the people of this community will be completely vulnerable to the proposed CAFO.